

seems most probable that she selects a chance accumulation of debris which she can appropriate for her use.' In the present instance both Mr. Smith and Mr. Mustill indicate that the nest was a compact cup like mass which could be lifted off the ground without its falling to pieces. This implies a nest, which is something more than an accumulation of leaves and suggests an effort at building. Apart from this, a new fact emerging is that the snake does not sit directly upon the eggs, but upon a compact intervening layer of leaves with which she covers them. These leaves probably shelter the eggs and help to maintain the temperature requisite for their incubation.—Eds.]

XXX.—THE GREEN PIT VIPER (*TRIMERESURUS GRAMINEUS*).

An appeal for specimens.

The discovery by Mr. and Mrs. Pope in 1933 that *Trimeresurus gramineus*, the Common Green Pit Viper, was a composite of three species was a notable achievement (*Amer. Mus. Nov.*, No. 620). It stressed in particular the value of the hemipenis as a specific character, for two of the species, namely *T. gramineus* and *T. stejnegeri*, can be distinguished from one another only by an examination of that structure, in all external characters being identical.

The distribution of the species is still imperfectly known, particularly of the two, possibly three that inhabit the peninsula of India south of the Gangetic Plain. I shall be grateful to anyone who can loan me specimens for examination. It is particularly desirable to see material from the neighbourhood of Vizagapatam, the type locality of *T. gramineus*. Exact locality of origin for all specimens should be given and living colours if possible.

CROMWELL ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.

June 15, 1936.

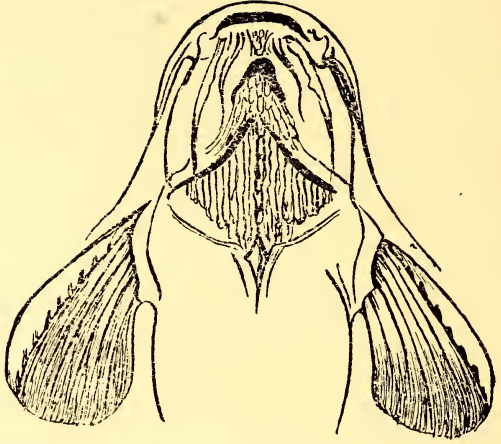
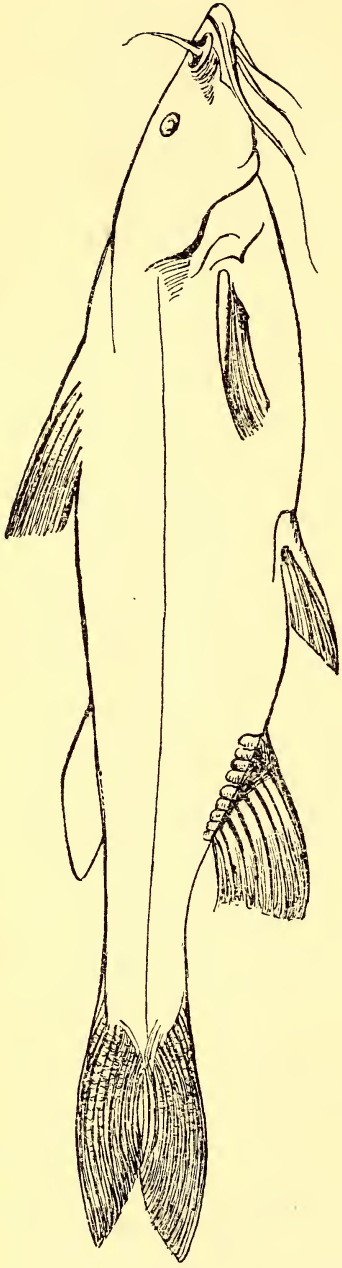
MALCOLM SMITH,

British Museum (Natural History).

XXXI.—DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF FISH FROM NORTHERN BENGAL.

(With a plate).

While making a collection of fishes in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri Districts, Bengal, we obtained some specimens of a species of *Glyptothorax* which does not appear to have been previously described. We propose the name *Glyptothorax horai* after our friend, Dr. Hora of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, to whose generous help we are so much indebted in compiling our list of the Fishes of Northern Bengal. Our specimens are in the Indian



GLYPTOTHORAX HORA SP. NOV.
2/1.

Museum and the Darjeeling Natural History Museum. We append a description and figure of the fish.

GLYPTOTHORAX HORAI sp. nov.

Vernacular: Nepalese: *Kala kabri*.

D. 1/6, P. 1/9, V. 6, A. 1/9, C. 19, Barbels four pairs.

Length of the head $4\frac{1}{2}$, height of the body $5\frac{1}{4}$ in total length. Width of the head .7 of its length. Width of the mouth half that of the head. Upper jaw the longer; a slight fringe on the upper lip. Barbels: maxillary pair extend half way along the pectoral fins; nasal reach the back of the orbit; outer pair of mandibular (the longer) reach the base of the pectorals. Teeth on the jaw but not on the palate. Fins: dorsal three-fourth the height of the body, spine moderately strong, smooth; adipose dorsal longer than the rayed dorsal and five-eighths of the interspace between them. Pectorals reach to half way between the bases of pectorals and pelvics; spines strong, flattened, with 8 or 9 strong, curved teeth internally—not plaited. Pelvics with fine transverse marking. Caudal peduncle about half as high as long. Adhesive apparatus extends from the lip to half way along the base of the pectorals. On the gill coverts it curves outwards but on the lip and thorax it consists of longitudinal folds. Laterally it does not extend quite to the pectorals. (In no other *Glyptothorax* that we know of does the adhesive apparatus extend to the lip. Colour: brownish-yellow with a dark blotch on the shoulder. Anal and caudal fins darker at base and tip. Size: Our longest specimen was 4.4 in. Habitat: Streams of the Terai (Bengal).

NAINI TAL, UNITED PROVINCES.

June 21, 1936.

G. E. SHAW,

E. O. SHEBBEARE.

XXXII.—ON THE DIET OF THE FISH, *RITA RITA*.

In vol. xxxvii, p. 661 of this *Journal*, Mr. Hamid Khan in his article 'Habits and Habitats of Food Fishes of the Punjab' gives the diet of *Rita rita* as follows:—'insects, their larvae and on young fishes. It also feeds even on carrion. It takes live bait, worms, chilwa or raw meat.' This may be as it may, but every specimen of *Rita* which I examined from the Nerbudda, and I must have examined a good few, had their stomachs full of young bivalves of about the size of peas and contained nothing else. The position of the mouth in these fishes in fact, suggests a molluscan diet.

CENTRAL MUSEUM,

NAGPUR.

July 4, 1936.

E. A. D'ABREU.